

Woman who helped to legalise abortion in US tells of her sorrow now

by Christina M. McDonald

The woman held responsible for legalizing abortion in the United States shared with an audience at NUI Galway last week her 'Road to Damascus' type conversion.

Norma McCorvey, also known as Jane Roe from the landmark Roe versus Wade Supreme Court case, told students of the Law and Life Societies how her views had gone full circle, to the extent that she is now one of the most strident anti-abortion campaigners in the world. She touched on her life, her religion, and the importance of keeping abortion illegal in Ireland.

"I was tired of the abortion industry, I had seen how the abortionists treat women and I didn't like it," McCorvey said. "I was getting tired of seeing the women crying and saying stop, but then I'd have to say, 'I'm sorry, there's nothing we can do now your baby's dead.'"

McCorvey spent the majority of her life on drugs and alcohol and when she got pregnant for the third time, she wanted an abortion. She was introduced to two female lawyers who offered her the ability to contest the right to an abortion in the state of Texas.

McCorvey signed the affidavit, seeking to overturn the Texas interpretation of abortion law. However, the case wasn't decided before she had her baby, so she gave it up for adoption. Later the case went on to the Supreme Court, which ruled that abortion was a right of privacy and could not be illegal in individual states.

Since the 1973 decision, Norma McCorvey has radically altered her views and now fully opposes abortion and a woman's right to choose.

She worked at four different abortion clinics in Dallas, but when the anti-abortion group Operation Rescue moved in next door she befriended some of the people working there and eventually converted to Christianity. She credits her faith in God with the change in her life as well as her change of heart regarding abortion.

"I used to get very depressed. I ran out into traffic, I cut my wrists, I've done lots of things to take the pain away, but now I don't have to do that because God is in control of my life," she said. McCorvey recognizes her part in the legalization of abortion, but refuses to believe she was completely to blame.

"I wasn't the attorney who ushered in the holocaust of abortion," McCorvey said. "I am a former plaintiff, I did sign the affidavit that brought Roe vs. Wade into being. I'll regret that for the rest of my life. That's something I can't undo."

McCorvey is now working to reverse the role that she played in legalizing abortion by taking actions to prove the original case of Roe versus Wade



Norma McCorvey: from abortion campaigner to now 'one hundred percent pro-life'.

unconstitutional.

"I'm not anti anything," she said. "I'm pro life. If a woman gets pregnant she is pregnant for whatever reason that God wanted her to get pregnant and it's not her right to take that life away."

McCorvey insists that even if women know all the facts, all the pros and cons of abortion, abortion is not her choice to make.

"I would leave people with one thought. When you're young and fall in love, {sex} is a very natural thing, but they should save themselves for that special someone," McCorvey said.

"Parents need to be accountable to their own children and teach them how to be proper and how to stay wholesome until they get married."

McCorvey is now working to overturn the 1973 United States Supreme Court decision for legalizing abortion and has started legal proceedings to reverse the decision in the United States.

Once claiming to 'live, eat, breathe, and think everything about abortion, Norma McCorvey now says she is 'one hundred percent sold to Jesus and one hundred percent pro-life.'"

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